

OUTER COURT COMMUNICATIONS



ISSUE 87-1 OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT, BOX 1366, NASHUA, NH 03061 WHOLE NO. 43 \$2.00

AROUND

OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT

This past year has been one of rapid growth for Our Lady Of Enchantment, both in the school and the Metaphysical Center. With growth, of course, comes change and there has been plenty of that as well. The most obvious changes are those of a physical reconstructive nature to the Center itself.

Our first large undertaking was in November when we enlarged our common meeting area and classroom. With the onset of Winter and Yule fast approaching incentive was high to complete some of the overdue interior projects. Our expert staff carpenter, Arthur Fortier, guided us through the rather hectic renovation of our Chapel. But, we didn't stop there. A wall and counter-divider were added to separate the kitchen from the meeting room, thereby providing us with more storage and space for post-ritual celebrations.

Presently in the works is the refurbishing of our half basement. This project has been given priority due to the increase in members and visitors to the Center. Floor plans include a gift shop, social area and dressing room. With much of the same fortitude as displayed in previous projects, the Goddess' blessings and plain old hard work, we should have this completed by Beltane.

It is important for us all to get involved with these projects. Whether you contribute in person, on a physical level, or through the mail with donations, your efforts will be rewarded.

We realize it is not possible for all of you to visit us here and thereby be able to take advantage of what we have to offer. However, your energies are not wasted, and because of them many are able to avail themselves of our services. At this point in time there are very few, if any, Wiccan metaphysical centers which are open to the public in this country. It is up to us all to see that our faith and teachings are made available to those sincerely seeking them. Wicca has for too long been kept locked in the elitist dark closet. Now is the time for it to reclaim its position among the religions of the world.

More and more we are seeing people attracted to the Wiccan religion. Whether it is through self-help books like those of Ray Bucklands; through our home study courses or personal classes; through participation in gatherings like those sponsored by Circle; now is the time to get involved and help support the Wiccan/Pagan movement.

Speaking of support; as we all know Circle has been having some problems with local zoning officials and they are not out of the woods yet. Any help you can give them will be appreciated. Please send your donations to CIRCLE, P.O. Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572.

You will note there has been a slight change in the newsletter. This was done to help better utilize space, thereby cutting down on printing and postage cost. By doing this we can now afford to print and distribute more newsletters. For those wishing more information we have a complete information package available. Send \$2.00 to Our Lady Of Enchantment INFP, Box 1366, Nashua, NH 03061

MYSTERY SCHOOLS

I have recently come across an article in a low-budget "Craft" newsletter attacking "Schools of Witchcraft".

The contention of this article was that schools of Wicca that are easily accessible to the public are "prostituting" the Ancient Knowledge and are simply out for monetary gain. Only covens practicing the "great art of secrecy" are valid.

I was rather taken aback by this shortsighted view; as anyone opposing the spreading of positive information about Wicca must be Mad.

There are basic facts about the Craft that we all must face. Firstly, we are a minority religion. Secondly, Wicca is not well accepted by today's society. This is not because the public is by nature hostile; rather it is uninformed.

Why should anyone not believe the current mis-conceptions about us when there is no one they can contact to receive accurate information?

The writer of this article seemed to have no objection to the sale of "how to" books on the Craft; surely they have done more to make the Ancient Knowledge public than any school offering personal support to sincere seekers of information.

Secrecy does have its place in Wicca; every valid religion contains teachings which are reserved for those dedicating their lives to that path. However, there must be some sort of public teaching and access to the

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benefits the Craft has to offer, or we are not a valid religion and should not claim to be such.

The statements that we have publicly made regarding our true teachings and practices are worthless if there is no learning opportunity for those who wish to experience the Craft for themselves.

In the ancient world mystery schools flourished, and any who wished could seek knowledge there. Their teachings were not "Secrets" but the way of the universe. If we are a true and valid path, should not the same institutions exist in our own time? - by CASSIUS-

VISIONS OF VALKYRIES

(By; AFA/Runestone, Box 1754, Breckenridge, TX 76024)

Of all the female figures prominent in Scandinavian Paganism, none are more dramatic than the Valkyries. As pictured in Wagnerian opera or in the court poetry of the heathen age, they are beautiful, supernatural women who fly through the skies to award victory in battle, and to bear the chosen heroes to Odin's hall. A closer look, though, reveals a much more complex figure!

Many different images seem to have come together to culminate in the valkyrie of later myth. It is important to note that living, mortal women provided many of the models for these celestial beings (or did these magickal maids provide the model for earthly women to emulate? No matter...). While their society was far from matriarchal, women were strong and respected in that culture - female warriors were known in Germanic tribes from the Black Sea to the heart of Europe. Priestesses, too,

seem to have added to the tradition; mortal princesses in some of the old stories could become valkyries, in a way that seems to imply leadership in some religious body. In a famous listing of heretics, sinners and general undesirables, the Anglo-Saxon bishop Wolfstan lists 'waelcyrge' (valkyries, or "choosers of the slain") with the clear implication that he's talking about flesh-and-blood people rather than spiritual entities.

Nevertheless, valkyries have a strong supernatural aspect as well. Early in the heathen period they seem to have been, not dignified shield-maidens on flying steeds, but rather demonic furies that foretold of the coming of conflict and stalked the battlefield. Charms have survived which were designed to give protection from these beings. On the other hand, some valkyries are protective, supernatural women who attach themselves to a particular hero and to his family; their action is wholly benevolent. Non-Pagan scholars tend to see these views as contradictory, but we shouldn't overlook the fact that valkyries are notorious shape-shifters and presumably can operate in whatever mode they choose. Like us mortals, they can decide how they wish to behave depending on the situation.

The picture of shining, armor-clad women bearing fallen warriors to Valhalla isn't invalid, then, but it is only a part of the rich history of the valkyrie revealed to us by a study of Nordic myth and religion. In any case, they are a reminder that our ancestors demanded courage and strength from men and women alike.

* * * * *



DAYDREAM

(Jeff Michaels #1528)

While in thoughts of you-love,
I was summoned by my name.
Through a message of enchantment,
The words beckoned beyond the rain.
Lost in the depths of compassion,
A gentle whisper led the way;
Through a wilderness I'd not explored
A vast emotional haze.
In the midst of this sleeping forest,
Serenity awoke me at its touch,
A tremendous weight was lifted,
A burden I'd never felt so much.
My journey took me onward,
As if finding a long lost friend.
My head was consumed by questions,
Longing for answers before the end.
I was told there was no mystery,
What was written in time could I expect.
Though I listened with my heart,
I could not fathom what was meant.
Her voice seemed sad and yet soothing-
While we strolled along the way.
She spoke the words of a precious love-
The greatest gift one gives away.
Drawn into a clearing,
A treasured shelter from life's cold,
Peace reached out and held me-
The rainbow warmed my soul.
Wild flowers graced the meadow-
Brightly colored smiles blessed
Radiant rays,
In a dream I was led among them;
Caressed by these dreams where I lay!

CRAFT PUBLICATIONS

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CIRCLE NETWORK NEWS: Quarterly newspaper, Wiccan/Pagan articles and news. \$3/sample, \$9/year. Circle, PO Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

COUNCIL OF THE MAGICKAL ARTS: Quarterly journal, Wiccan/Pagan related. \$7/year. Council of the Magickal Arts, 5920 Bissonet 114, Houston, TX 77081

HARVEST: Published at Sabbats; Neo-Pagan journal, Wiccan/Pagan articles, news, and networking. \$2/sample, \$10/yearly. Harvest, PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701

MAGICKAL UNICORN MESSENGER: Quarterly publication of the Temple of Wicca. Articles, poems, festival news. \$7/yearly. Temple of Wicca, PO Box 1302, Findlay, OH 45839

OF A LIKE MIND: Quarterly newspaper, published by and for women; also networking membership. \$2.50/sample, \$10/yearly. Of A Like Mind, PO Box 6201, Madison, WI 53716

PAGANA: Sabbats, Pagan/Wiccan/Occult, a special interest group of Mensa. \$2/sample, \$12/year (6 issues). Zephyr Starwater, PO Box 9494, San Jose, CA 95157

PAGAN PARENTS LEAGUE NEWSLETTER: For Pagan parents. PO Box 423-P, Bay Shore, NY 11706

PAGAN UNITY NEWS: Quarterly networking publication for the Wiccan/Pagan community. \$2/sample, \$7/yearly. Northern Way, Inc., 6030 W. Roosevelt Rd., Oak Park, IL 60304

PANEGYRIA: The newsletter of the Aquarian Tabernacle Church, \$8/yearly. PO Box 85507, Seattle, WA 98145

SEASONAL SILVER: Nature/Humanitarian quarterly newsletter. \$2/sample, \$8/yearly. PO Box 189, Alpharetta, GA 30201

THUNDERBOW: Monthly newsletter with a good individual viewpoint. \$6/yearly. Church of the Seven Arrows, 4385 Hoyt St. - #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033

THE UNICORN: Published at Sabbats, newsletter format. \$10/yearly. The Rowan Tree, Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408 (Also the location of The Rowan Tree Herb Shop)

THE UPPER TRIAD: A journal of metaphysical, theosophical, and esoteric philosophy. Free/monthly. The Upper Triad, PO Box 1370, Manassas, VA 22110-1370

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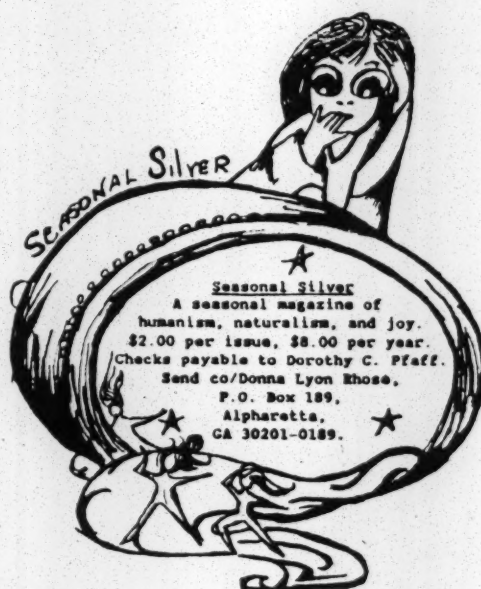
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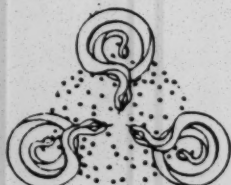


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IN THE NEWS

History of Valentine Spells & Love Potions

By Sharon Achatz
Copley News Service

Getting someone to be your valentine wasn't always as complicated as it is today.

The ancients never asked a person, "Will you be my valentine?" They didn't bother with flowers, colognes, cards or poems.

Of course, they didn't even have Valentine's Day back then. But if they had, they wouldn't have had to resort to the romantic tactics we use today. They had the gods on their side.

"The Greeks regarded romantic attraction as a gift of the gods," said Dr. Kathleen O'Brien Wicker, professor of religion at Scripps College in Claremont, Calif. "They thought it was quite natural to ask the deities to intervene in matters of passion and love."

They also asked the gods for success in business, good dreams, wealth and health. It is an interesting commentary on human nature and human needs, Wicker said, that love spells are the largest single category of spells in the Greek Magical Papyri, a collection of magical spells dating from the second century B.C. through the fifth century A.D.

In the spells, love basically is limited to physical attraction, she said. Many of the spells ask that the love objects be so consumed with love that they are unable to do anything else.

"In frenzy may she come fast to

my doors, forgetting her life with parents, and loathing all the race of men and women outside of me, but may she hold just me and come subdued in heart by love's great force," said one such spell.

Wicker said the spells take several forms. Some, like the one above, give verbal formulas intended to arouse passion. Others give directions for concocting love potions and simple love charms.

Some ancient potions included mashed up alligators and lizards, powdered partridge brains and dried beetles.

The notion of food affecting sexuality has lasted much longer than the spells, and there are lists and lists of foods that one time or another have been believed to excite sexual desire. Fortunately, most modern "aphrodisiacs" have proven to be quite delectable: honey, oysters, caviar, chocolate, lobster, pomegranates, green M&Ms. There is, however, little evidence that foods actually do excite sexual desire.

And no one really knows how successful the love spells were.

"But the ancient magicians convinced their customers that if the spells didn't work, they were doing something wrong in working the spell or someone else had a more powerful spell going," Wicker said. "If the latter were the case, then the magician could be consulted once again for a more potent spell," she said.

It seems there always is a price to pay for love — whether the price tag is on roses or bird brains.



EGGSPERTS at the Nexus Contemporary Arts Center in Atlanta balance nearly two dozen eggs on end. (UPI)

Balanced Eggs Defy Logic On the First Day of Spring

ROME, Ga. (UPI) — Scientists say they can't explain why eggs stand up on end on the first day of spring but hundreds of people attended the Second Annual Vernal Equinox Egg Stand yesterday to defy logic.

Egg lovers and skeptics alike converged on Clock Tower Hill in Rome to see more than 150 eggs stand up on their own. Others groups assembled in Atlanta, Miami and Orlando, Fla., to see similar displays in bars and art centers.

"I heard about this (egg balancing) in the past but was very skeptical," said Dr. Steve Davis, a clinical psychologist at Shorter College in Rome. "It shows the delicacy of the forces that surround us and that there are still things about the universe we simply don't understand."

Tommy Mew, a spectator at Clock Tower Hill, said he preferred to explain the phenomenon. "It is just simply magic," Mew said.

Scientists say there is no logical explanation for why the eggs stand on edge on the first of spring, but some unfounded reasons range from the existence of enchanted ground to cosmic forces in the universe.

Susan Harvey, a coordinator for the event sponsored by the Rome Arts Council, said last year she had an egg stand up for two weeks.

"I stood some eggs up last year in my kitchen before we got to the Clock Tower Hill and one egg stood up for two weeks undisturbed and it actually sort of got in the way," she said. "After a while it became a family pet almost."

MUGWORT DREAM PILLOW

Artemisia Vulgaris - Mugwort is a perennial plant that can be found along roadsides and in ditches and buisy areas in Europe, Asia and North and South America. It can be purchased at herb gardens and easily grown in the home garden. The name Artemisia comes from the plants association to the Goddess Artemis. It is from the same family as Wormwood and Southern wood.

Mugwort is an excellent addition to the witches garden and herb cupboard. It has a variety of uses including protection, astral travel, psychic powers healing and strength. Hung above the door it guards against lightning. Placed under the door it helps to keep annoying people away. In medieveel times traveles placed some in their shoes to prevent fatigue and weariness and to guard against the evil eye.

Mugwort is used with sandalwood as a divination incense. An infusion of it can be used to wash magick mirrors and crystal balls. Legend has it that the witch Morgan le Fay used it for this purpose. Mugwort can also be used in dream pillows to help clarify and bring interesting and prophetic dreams.

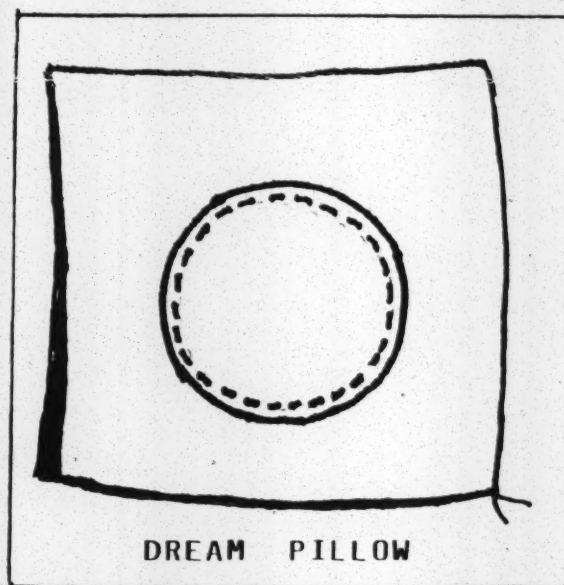
MUGWORT DREAM PILLOW :

2 oz of Mugwort
1 oz Marigold
3 drops Rose Oil
2 2x5 squares of blue fabric
1 2"circle of yellow felt
Needle and thread

Mix Mugwort and Marigold together in a non-metal container, add 3 drops of Rose Oil. Sew the blue squares together (right sides of

fabrick together.) On three sides, turn the bag inside out. Take the Yellow Circle which represents the Full Moon and sew or glue it to the blue pillow. (See diagram.) Stuff herb mix into pilow and sew up end. During the waxing moon place this pillow out under the moonlight and take it in before the sun rises. The pillow may be placed under or on top of your regular pillow, or inside the pillow case.

by Holly



SOLITARY SPRING RITUAL

We celebrate the Vernal or Spring Equinox on the evening of March 21st. This is a time of transition; clearly connected with the dynamics of relationships. For now we look to the forces of nature for inner strength and renewal.

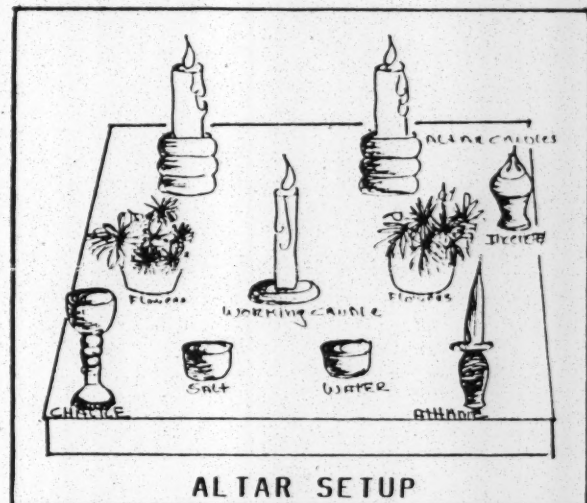
This is a time of equality when the day and night are of equal length. Now is a good time to strive for balance between the material and spiritual worlds as we seek to balance the feminine and masculine aspects.

SOLITARY SPRING RITUAL

Though this ritual is written with the solitary in mind with a little imagination it could be adapted for a small group celebration.

Items needed; Fresh flowers, seasonal incense, two white altar candles, one green working candle, white wine and your Witches tools.

Cleanse the area as instructed in lesson 3 of the Wicca course and set your altar as depicted in the drawing below.



Take a few moments to meditate upon the meaning of the Sabbat. Consecrate the elements, cast the circle and call in the Guardians as instructed in lesson 4 of the Wicca course.

CELEBRANT

Picks up the flowers and offers them to the Goddess saying:

MY LADY, DO I COME BEFORE YOUR SACRED ALTAR IN CELEBRATION. I PRAY FOR PEACE AND PROGRESSION. I PRAY FOR INNER STRENGTH AND WISDOM. I PRAY FOR SPRINGTIME AND GROWTH OF THE LIFE SPIRIT WITHIN.

CELEBRANT will now take a flower to each one of the four Quadrants as he/she says the following;

EQUAL NIGHT, EQUAL LIGHT
I PRAY BANISH WINTERS PLIGHT

CELEBRANT, returns to tha altar and will acknowledge the Goddess by saying;

BLESSED BE CERRIDWEN, GODDESS OF BEAUTY, WONDER AND GRACE.

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CELEBRANT places some incense in the censer and says the following;

O LORD AND LADY OF LIGHT AND LIFE,
I PRAY, POUR FORTH YOUR BLESSINGS.
LET YOUR MYSTERIES AND SECRETS BE
AS THE GENTLE FIRE OF SPRING,
FREEING ALL FROM DARKNESS AND
DEATH.

O LORD AND LADY OF LIGHT AND LIFE,
I PRAY, LET YOUR SACRED WISDOM
HELP ME TO REALIZE TO THE FULLEST
YOUR TRUTH, POWER AND WISDOM.

AYEA, AYE, CERRIDWEN
AYEA, AYE, CERRIDWEN
AYEA, AYE, CERRIDWEN
AYEA, AYE, AYE

AYEA, AYE, CERNUNNOS
AYEA, AYE, CERNUNNOS
AYEA, AYE, CERNUNNOS
AYEA, AYE, AYE

CELEBRANT will now light the
working candle, bearing in mind
all of those things which are
being sought.

SPRINGTIME IS AT MY DOOR AND I
WELCOME THE GOD AND GODDESS WITH
ALL MY HEART. LET THEIR SPIRIT OF
ETERNAL YOUTH MAKE ALL NEW AGAIN.

EQUAL NIGHT AND EQUAL LIGHT
WILL NOW BANISH WINTERS FLIGHT.
BLESSED BE CERRIDWEN
BLESSED BE CERNUNNOS

CELEBRANT will now take the candle
around the circle and offer it at
each of the four Quadrants in a
gesture of respect.

CELEBRANT will now bless the wine
as follows:

HAIL TO THEE O LOVING LADY OF THE
EARTH.

QUEEN OF ALL THE HEAVENS, GODDESS
OF STARS AND STREAMS.

I PRAY, POUR FORTH YOUR BLESSINGS
UPON THE AWAKENED LANDS AND UPON
THE SEEDS OF MY DESIRES.

LET ALL I THINK AND DO, BLOSSOM
FORTH, AND BE A BLESSING UNTO YOU.
MAY THE FRUITS OF MY LABORS ALWAYS
BRING GLORY AND HONOR TO YOUR
NAME.

AYEA, AYE, CERRIDWEN
AYEA, AYE, CERRIDWEN
AYEA, AYE, CERRIDWEN
AYEA, AYE, AYE

Now sip the wine as you think
about those things you wish to
bring into manifestation. At this
point you will want to dance,
chant or meditate to raise the
power; directing it towards
desired goals.

CELEBRANT, returns to the altar,
places some incense in the censer
and says the following;

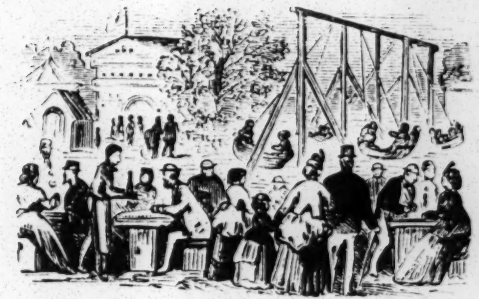
MY LORD NOW SIGHS WITH FROSTY
BREATH AND BRINGS FORTH LIGHT FROM
COLD DARK DEATH.

MY LADY ARISES FROM THE GLOOM AND
BRINGS FORTH LIFE FROM HER AGELESS
WOMB.

TOGETHER THEY BECOME AS ONE FOR
THEIR WORK AND WILL TO BE DONE.

BLESSED BE CERRIDWEN
BLESSED BE CERNUNNOS.

CELEBRANT will now dismiss the
Guardians and banish the circle.



GATHERINGS/SEMINARS

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